

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
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R 301600Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2308  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0107

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: ELTN, CG, ZA, AO  
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN THREATENS WITH RAIL TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS  
UNLESS STEPS TAKEN TO OPEN FRONTIER WITH ANGOLA

1.DURING MEETING OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN RAILWAY OFFICIALS IN  
LUSAKA JANUARY 16-18, PRESSURE APPLIED ON ZAIRIAN DELEGATION  
TO CUT BACK RAIL SHIPMENTS THROUGH ZAMBIA AND HALT ZAIRIAN  
SHIPMES ON TAZARA. PURPOSE THOUGHT TO BE TO FORCE ZAIRE  
TO REOPEN FRONTIER WITH ANGOLA.END SUMMARY

2. BASIC CONFRONTATION OCCURRED BETWEEN ZAIRIAN AND ZAMBIAN  
DELEGATIONS. ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN PARTICIPANTS ZAMBIANS SAID  
ALL CAPACITY ON TAZARA TO BE RESERVED FOR THEMSELVES IN FUTURE  
AND ZAIRIAN TRAFFIC STATED THEY BELIEVED CONFRONTATION  
DESIGNED TO FORCE ZAIRIANS TO NEGOTIATE OPENING OF BENGUELA  
RAILROADS WITH ANGOLANS.

3. ZAIRIANS ARGUMENTS BROUGHT SOME TEMPORARY MODIFICATION  
IN ZAMBIAN POSITION. ZAMBIANS AGREED TO ALLOW SOME  
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ZAIRIAN TRAFFIC ON TAZARA KEEPING FIRST PRIORITY FOR  
THEIR OWN NEEDS. ZAMBIANS ALSO AGREED TO 28,550 MT OF  
CAPACITY THROUGH LIVINGSTONE(8,700 MT OF COKE, 3,150  
MT OF COAL, 12,100 MT OF MAIZE, 2,050 MT OF SULPHUR  
AND 2,550 MT OF GNERAL CARGO OF WHICH 500 MT IS FOR  
SODIMIZA.) ZAIRIANS FOR THEIR PART AGREED TO ATTEND  
MEETING IN LUSAKA IN FEBRUARY WITH ANGOLANS WHERE OPENING

OF BENGUELA RAILROAD WILL BE DISCUSSED. IF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS IS NOT FOUND, ZAIRIANS BELIEVE ZAMBIANS WILL APPLY FURTHER PRESSURE BY FORCING RESTRICTIONS ON ZAIRIAN SHIPMENTS THROUGH ZAMBIA.

4. ZAIRIANS HAVE GROWN HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON TRAFFIC TRANSITING ZAMBIA SINCE BENGUELA RR CLOSED IN AUGUST 1975. FOR 1977 COPPER SHIPMENTS ALONE VIA LIVINGSTONE AVERAGED MORE THAN 24,000 MT PER MONTH. GECAMINES IMPORTS WHICH PASS LIVINGSTONE AVERAGED MORE THAN 23,000 MT PER MONTH DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977. COPPER EXPORTS VIA THE TAZARA HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANT SELDOM MORE THAN 2,000 MT PER MONTH BECAUSE OF ZAMBIANS NEEDS, BUT IMPORTS VIA THE TAZARA HAVE BEEN GROWING IN THE PAST TAZARA OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT 5,000 MT OF CAPACITY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR ZAIRE. GECAMINES HAS STOCKPILED ABOUT 14,000 OF GOODS (12,000 MT OF COKE AND COAL AND 2,000 MT OF MINING EQUIPMENT) IN DAR ES SALAAM ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TAZARA WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN FUTURE.

5. ZAIRIANS OFFICIALS ARE NOT OPTIMISTS ABOUT OUTCOME OF FEBRUARY MEETING WITH ANGOLANS. IN FIRST PLACE AGREEMENT WILL REQUIRE POLITICAL DECISION IN KINSHASA TO SEEK NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. SECONDLY ZAIRIANS ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SHIPMENTS  
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ON BENGUELA AS LONG AS UNITA IS IN POSITION TO THREATEN LINE. IN ADDITION ZAIRIANS RAILROADS STILL HEAVILY STAFFED BY EUROPEANS IS DISTRUSTFUL OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT NOW BE RUNNING BENGUELA. FINALLY ZAIRIANS HAVE NOT YET PUSHED REGULAR RAILROAD SERVICE INTO WESTERN SHABAN AREAS  
AFFECTED BY 80 DAY WAR.

6. DURING DISCUSSIONS IN FEBRUARY FIRST STEP EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSION OF 738 ZAIRIANS AND 746 ZAMBIANS RAILROAD CARS HELD IN ANGOLA SINCE 1975. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON WAGON EXCHANGE RESUMPTION OF SERVICE WOULD BE NEXT STEP.

7. POSSIBLE POLITICAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA NOT CONSIDERED IN SHABA AS IMPORTANT AS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM CONTINUED INABILITY TO SHIP THROUGH LOBITO, ESPECIALLY WHEN ROUTES TO THE SOUTH ARE THREATENED. NEVERTHELESS ANY DECISION ON OPENING RAILWAY LINK WILL DEPEND ON POLITICAL DECISION FROM KINSHASA. EVEN UNDER BEST CASE SCENARIO, ZAIRIANS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT BENGUELA CHILD BE FUNCTIONING

FROM LUBUMBSHO TO LOBITO BEFORE 1979.

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## Message Attributes

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